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Security Council

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Letter dated 29 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to offer you the most sincere condolences of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its people following the death of a Tanzanian peacekeeper who was part of the Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The peacekeeper was killed near Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, by the terrorists of the negative force Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), who are being supported by forces of the regular Rwandan army. The attack took place as MONUSCO was providing support to the Forces armées de la République démocratiques du Congo (FARDC) as they were attempting to protect populated districts in Goma.

My Government strongly condemns the murder of this peacekeeper, which occurred in the course of the clashes that also resulted in the wounding of several peacekeepers, and expresses its sympathy to the victims' families and the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and South Africa.

My Government wishes to pay a well-deserved tribute to the brave soldiers of the Intervention Brigade of MONUSCO and take this opportunity to express its support for the efforts of the United Nations to restore peace and stability to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government wishes to reaffirm the substance of its letter of 23 August 2013 (S/2013/512) and to inform the Security Council that fighting resumed on Wednesday, 28 August 2013, and continued on Thursday, 29 August. In the evening of Wednesday, 28 August, four shells struck the city of Goma, in particular North Mabanga district, killing two persons, including a 13-year-old child, and seriously injuring 12 others. A house in Bujovu district suffered extensive damage. More shells struck the city Thursday morning. The sound of explosions in the city created panic among the population. Another shell may have struck Gisenyi (Rubavu), which is a Rwandan town that lies immediately across the border from Goma, and caused distress among our brothers and sisters on the other side of our common border.

This escalation of violence does not benefit either the people of Rwanda or those of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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Accordingly, my Government calls for an emergency meeting of the Security Council and urges the Council to:

1. Strongly condemn the terrorists of the M23 negative force and its ally, Rwanda, for their massacre of civilians in Goma, and consider this heinous and reprehensible act sponsored by Rwanda as a war crime and a crime against humanity and ask the International Criminal Court to treat it as such;

2. Impose sanctions against the leaders of M23;

3. Order the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the regular units of the Rwandan army from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

4. Invite Rwanda to respect the commitments that it entered into freely under the Framework agreement signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013;

5. Take all necessary measures, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2098 (2013), to protect civilians in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government calls on the Security Council to follow up on this matter, and would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a Council document.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative